

**Question for written answer E-014464/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
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Subject: Bitcoin

Due to its increasing popularity, the bitcoin, a virtual currency, has forced several governments to issue statements regarding the use thereof. France and China have announced that their credit institutions are unable to perform bitcoin transactions using. Although it does not apparently wish to discourage the use of the digital currency, the USA has nevertheless stressed that the rules on money laundering should also apply to the new currency.

In view of this:

1. Has the Commission investigated the matter at the EU level?
2. Does it consider the bitcoin to be 'legal tender'?
3. Does it intend to establish regulations regarding virtual money?
4. Is it in favour of or opposed to the bitcoin?
5. What are the possible risks for the European economy and how can these be addressed?